

DISTRICT V ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes
www.wichita.gov

December 5, 2005
7:00 p.m.

Auburn Hills Golf Course Clubhouse
443 S. 135th West

Nine (9) District Advisory Board Members attended the District V Advisory Board meeting. Also in attendance was six City staff. Approximately 15 members of the public were present with eight (8) signing the sign-in sheet.

Members Present

David Almes
Bob Bulman
David Dennis
Maurice Ediger
Andy Johnson
John Marker
Clarke Sandberg
DeAnn Sullivan
Ann Welborn
Council Member Bob Martz

Staff Present

Deb Legge, Central Inspection
Randy Sparkman, Central Inspection
Kay Johnson, Environmental Services
Bradley Haught, Police
Patricia Brock, Police
Dana Brown, City Manager's Office

Guests

Listed on page 6.

Members Absent

Jerry Hoggatt

Call to Order

Bob Martz, City Council Member, called the meeting to order at 7:03. He welcomed the public and explained that the role of the District Advisory Board was to advise him on district and citywide issues. He asked that all people who wished to speak on an agenda item wait until the public is given the opportunity. Other items not on the agenda would be addressed on the Public Agenda portion. Council Member Martz asked that the public wait to be acknowledged before speaking as well as refrain from disrespectful comments or actions while others were speaking.

Council Member Martz then asked for approval of the minutes for the November 7, 2005 meeting. The minutes were approved 8-0.

The agenda for December 5, 2005 was also approved.

Welborn arrived at 7:05.

Staff Reports

Community Police Report

Officer Bradley Haught, Beat 199, reported on policing activities including robbery, residential & non-residential theft, larcenies, vandalism, and auto theft for the police beats in District V including. Of most concern are residential and auto theft and warned about leaving cars unlocked

and running in the cold weather as a perfect opportunity for the car to be stolen. Officers are not currently citing the car owners but are using education. Haught reported on theft at storage units at 1445 S. Tyler (District IV) in which locks are being cut off the doors. He also said that some policing had been required for complaints about youth gathering in an open field at 8200 W. 19th.

New Business

Office of Central Inspection

Deb Legge and Randy Sparkman, OCI Neighborhood Inspection Supervisors, presented information about Housing and Zoning Code Enforcement Activities. Sparkman explained the programs that he supervises and talked about various issues that are common in most neighborhoods.

DAB Members asked several questions: (1) current enforcement of portable storage containers and **Sparkman** explained that no permit was required although the containers must be a neutral color and a meet size regulations; (2) allowance of five vehicles in a driveway to which Sparkman said they must be operable and tagged, and are considered “stored” if they haven’t been moved for 72 hours; (3) allowance of signs on utility poles to which Sparkman said these are not the city’s but recommended that OCI be contacted to check on; and (4) allowance of commercial vehicles parked with gates open which obstruct sidewalks and Sparkman said OCI and/or Police should be contacted. **Johnson** provided information on the site of the concern and Sparkman stated he would have an inspector check on it the following day.

Legge talked about the programs pertaining to residential housing codes, neighborhood nuisances, dangerous structures & condemnation, and neighborhood cleanups. She explained that housing codes include landlord-tenant and owner-occupied homes. Legge said that only about 1/3 of the houses condemned are actually torn down. Another program for Legge’s division is neighborhood cleanups: 82 cleanups were organized and carried out in 2005. In addition, field staff reporting to Legge are taking part in a pilot program for the City to use wireless connection for completing their paperwork while in the neighborhood areas rather than having to return to an office to complete the work.

DAB Members commented on how much better the corner of 21st & 119th appeared since the demolition of two houses at that site. A question was also asked about whether homeowners could apply through E-Permits on the website for renovation projects. **Legge** said that people in the building trades could only use the E-Permit.

Legg further reported that OCI had processed 1,500-1,700 violations on 2,700-3,300 houses and that her programs typically respond to 2,000-3,000 complaints on zoning and the same number on licensing.

One additional point of information given by Legge is a proposed trial program for automatic call distribution to answer all phone calls coming into OCI.

Action: Receive and file.

Environmental Services

Kay Johnson, Environmental Services Director, presented information and provided a number of leaflets on programs of the Environmental Services Department. She reported that a total of 65 staff work in the department programs with 4-6 staff covering the entire city for neighborhood inspections and several for food inspections. Approximately 700 complaints are received each month and a 50% closure rate for within 10 days is obtained. State law regulates that ten days be allowed for the resident to obtain compliance before the department takes action to abate. State law allows 30 days for housing violations (OCI). Abatement is handled by the City through a contractor who brings the property into compliance and their service billed to the property owner.

Regarding violations of tall grass and weeds (TGW), the currently policy of Environmental Services is to send one letter per year to property owners regarding their violation. If the property is non-compliant again at a later date, the violation notice is given immediately and the 10-day abatement period begins at that point. One of the main issues with TGW violations is for properties that back up to an arterial. Most of these property owners are not aware that they are responsible for mowing the right of way so the process becomes one of education. The department is considering a proposal to increase the penalty for repeat offenders. The first offense now costs the city approximately \$75-100 for completing the violation process.

Animal Control has approximately 32,000 calls/complaints annually. Currently one officer serves approximately 27,000 of the city's population. Johnson spoke briefly about a consideration to require registering cats to help support the follow up cost of complaints due to the number of complaints about cats. Currently, only dogs are registered and the revenue generated by those fees is helping support the department's response to cat complaints.

Other issues addressed were air quality and septic systems. Currently, air quality standards in the City are compliant with federal regulation. Johnson believes that is due to a weaker economy affecting personal transportation. The department is also working to educate property owners who rely on septic systems about health and safety issues and encouraging them to take initiative to convert to city water. She noted the recent meeting organized by David Dennis for his area of Rainbow Lakes in which Public Works and Environmental Health spoke with homeowners about replacing their septic systems.

Bulman expressed concerns about a container truck that leaves black oily residue on the street in his residential area, close to a construction company. Johnson said that the Hazardous Materials team should respond to that and he should call Environmental Services if this occurs again.

Ediger asked if the leash law for dogs recently implemented by the City was working to which Johnson said it's most effective point was that it gives the City the ability to intervene when dogs are not being treated properly or are dangerous.

Council Member Martz asked how calls are handled for strays and gave a scenario from a recent citizen who said they had called Animal Control about strays that they had contained in their garage but the officer didn't come to the residence as indicated through the call. Johnson said the officers typically do come for the animals when called but a dog bite would take priority. She also noted that the Police could be called also.

Council Member Martz announced that the City was being honored that week at the National League of Cities through the Crown Communities Award for the WATER Center, which is part

of the Gilbert-Mosley ground water remediation. He also said that the City would receive two additional awards for air transportation progress through the Fair Fares program with Air-Tran and a digital award for the Information Technology Department for cities of 250,000 population or larger.

Action: Receive and file.

Public Agenda

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for citizens to present items not shown as part of the regular meeting agenda.

Candace Fish, Northwest Coordinator for Abstinence Education, spoke briefly about the three-year program funded by a grant from the Health and Human Services Federal Department for all City Council Districts to work with youth to promote abstinence from a health perspective. She said assessments would be done with youth prior to the program and afterward to indicated progress. The coordinators can provide programs to the schools by invitation and to other community groups as requested. They are seeking an advisory board for the area if anyone is interested in serving.

Erma Markham, National Board Member for Neighborhoods USA (NUSA), presented information on her effort to bring the national conference for this organization with about 1,200 participants to Wichita in 2009 or 2010. She explained that NUSA is the largest grassroots organization in the world with an annual conference from all states and many other countries. She noted that Habitat for Humanity had grown out of NUSA as a grassroots effort. The goal of NUSA is to encourage the growth of healthy neighborhoods by partnering with the city to make the areas safe and secure. In an effort to bring the conference to Wichita in the future, Markham had visited with the City Manager who requested that she take the proposal to the DABs for neighborhood support and to obtain financial commitments from other organizations and businesses. She requested a letter of support from the Council Member and the Board. **Council Member Martz** stated that more information is necessary for DAB V to consider her request. **Markham** said she would provide information to be forwarded to the DAB for the next meeting in January and referred members to the NUSA website at www.nusa.org.

Markham also introduced KC Ohaebosim and Jacob House from the Wichita Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB) who are assisting her. **House** said one of the main goals of CVB is to help make Wichita a national destination site. He said that CVB had pledged support for the bid to NUSA to bring the conference to Wichita. The conference would allow Wichita to be showcased internationally. In addition, the economic impact for hotels, restaurants, and shopping would be approximately \$555,000. The City's Housing/Community Development Director, Mary Kay Vaughn, is also involved in the effort.

Action: Deferred.

Board Agenda

Updates, Issues, and Reports

Report on activities, events, or concerns in the neighborhoods and/or District V.

Council Member Martz

The Council Member asked **David Almes** to report on their tour of the YMCA facility at W. 21st & 135th N. Almes said it would be the largest YMCA facility in the state with 102,000 square feet. He talked about the many activities that will be available including use of the ponds for some water sports.

Almes also noted that he had taken grandchildren to the Museum of World Treasures in Old Town and they had enjoyed it so much that they spent an entire afternoon there. **Council Member Martz** added that two other features recently opened were the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame in Old Town and the Cowtown addition.

A newly prepared map for homeowner associations was distributed to all Board Member including one for District V only.

Action: Receive and file.

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next regular meeting for District Advisory Board V is scheduled at Auburn Hills Clubhouse at **7:00 p.m. on January 9, 2006** the second Monday of the month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Brown, Neighborhood Assistant
City Council District V

Guests

Clete Dold, 218 S. Breezy Point Circle, 67235

Paul Tobia, 12102 Ridgepoint

Betty Ladwig

Carla A Lee

Erma Markham, NUSA

Jacob House, CVB

Candace Fish, Abstinence Education

KC Ohaebosim, NUSA